

February 19, 2013, Hearing re Veterans and Military Matters, Room 1-E

Good afternoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment before your committee.

I am very interested in Raised Senate Bill 836 proposing to amend the current law protecting Veterans records. I received a number of requests a number of years ago from Washington to ask you to pass the current law which we prepared following discussions with legislative members, the association of Town Clerks, the Governor and members of his staff. The question arose because of a number of thefts of Veterans assets when information was taken from public records used as evidence to receive certain tax exemptions.

The requests came to me as a former national board member and Judge Advocate General of the Congressionally chartered Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

It is interesting to see the recruiting proposal coming up now when all information I am receiving through military newspapers and emails indicate the strength cuts that are probably coming!

I met with my town clerk and town assessor this morning to walk through our current privacy procedure which seems to be working well.

The only concern I have is accurate identification of the Recruiter. The Town Clerk also had that concern. During Vietnam a lot of recruiting was done in civilian clothing as you may recall. I know as I was doing some for the Major General who commanded the Army Reserve's 76th Division headquartered in Connecticut.

We also know that anyone can buy military uniforms and or may have them from prior service. Crooks often make misrepresentations! Thus appropriate identification would be desirable.

A normal Military ID card alone would not be sufficient because hundreds of thousands are outstanding and only a few are held by recruiters. Special ID for National Guard folks would be easy to prepare and distribute under the authority of the Adjutant General. Federal recruiters raise a different concern. I am not sure how to do it but it might be possible to get letters from recruiting station commanders as a start.

One possibility is to identify both federal and state recruiters by name and rank and have this information sent to Town and City Clerks directly or through the Secretary of the State. We must remember the five services, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force, both Active and Reserve, and the Army and Air National Guard.

Thank you for your consideration and if I may be of any assistance, please advise.

**COL (RET) John K. Jepson
USAR
W 860-674-1600, H 860-675-6100**